

## Message Text

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11

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 AID-20 IGA-02 MC-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00

PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01

PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 OMB-01 TRSE-00

DRC-01 /135 W

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P R 280443Z SEP 74

FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6175

INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

CINCPAC

UNCLAS SEOUL 6462

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, KS, US

SUBJECT: PRESS REACTION TO CONGRESSIONAL AID CUTS

1. LOCAL MEDIA HAVE SHOWN CONSIDERABLE INTEREST IN RECENT MOVES BY U.S. CONGRESS TO CUT MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO KOREA BECAUSE OF ROK DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION. PRESS SEPT 26-27 REPORTED HOUSE FOREIGN AFFAIRS COMMITTEE ACTION IN REDUCING FY 75 GRANT MILITARY AID TO \$100 MILLION AND EXCESS DEFENSE ARTICLES TO \$15 MILLION. PRESS ALSO REPORTS THAT REP DONALD FRASER WILL PROPOSE AMENDMENT TO CUT FMS CREDIT TO \$35 MILLION AND TO LIMIT ACTUAL EXPENDITURES TO TWO THIRDS ALLOCATED UNTIL U.S. PRESIDENT REPORTS TO CONGRESS THAT ROK POLITICAL CLIMATE HAS CHANGED.

2. PAPERS SEPT 27 GAVE EXTENSIVE COVERAGE TO ADMINISTRATION RESPONSES TO CONGRESSIONAL MOVE INCLUDING REPORTED STATE DEPT OBJECTIONS TO CUTS, PRIVATE DISCUSSIONS BETWEEN PRESIDENT FORD AND CONGRESSIONAL LEADERS, AND FINAL SENATE MOVE TO POSTPONE ACTION ON FOREIGN AID BILL AT REQUEST OF SECSTATE KISSINGER IN ORDER TO AVOID TERMINATION OF ALL AID TO TURKEY AND CUT IN ROK AID.

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3. PAPERS SEPT 27-28 CARRIED REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON THAT 105 MEMBERS OF CONGRESS HAD SENT LETTER TO SECRETARY KISSINGER WARNING THAT THEIR SUPPORT FOR FOREIGN AID LEGISLATION WOULD BE INFLUENCED BY EXTENT U.S. FOREIGN POLICY SHOWS MORE CONCERN FOR HUMAN RIGHTS IN RECIPIENT COUNTRIES. LETTER REPORTEDLY SAID THAT OBSERVANCE OF CERTAIN FUNDAMENTAL HUMAN RIGHTS IS POSSIBLE EVEN IN COUNTRIES WHOSE DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS ARE STILL NOT FULLY MATURE.

4. PRESS SEPT 28 QUOTES "DIPLOMATIC SOURCES" AS SAYING THAT ROKG CONSIDERING RELEASING STUDENTS AND CIVIC LEADERS JAILED UNDER EMERGENCY MEASURES BEFORE VISIT OF PRESIDENT FORD. REASON GIVEN FOR FREEING PRISONERS IS TO STOP GROWING CONGRESSIONAL ANTI-ROK FEELING WHEN MILITARY AID TO KOREA UNDER CONSIDERATION. IN RELATED STORY DRP POLICY CHAIRMAN PAK CHUN-KYU IS QUOTED AS TELLING COLLEGE STUDENT SEPT 26 NOT TO ACT RASHLY BECAUSE HE UNDERSTANDS GOVERNMENT WORKING ON PLAN TO PARDON THOSE ARRESTED.

5. IN EDITORIAL REACTION TO CONGRESSIONAL MOVES CHUNGANG ILBO EXPRESSED CONCERN OVER MILITARY AID CUTS AND URGED ROKG TO SOLVE PROBLEM BY REMOVING THE CAUSES OF CONGRESSIONAL CRITICISM. ON OTHER HAND GOVERNMENT SEOUL SHINMJN WROTE THAT U.S. CONGRESS SHOULD NOT BE MISLED BY SUBJECTIVE AND SUPERFICIAL CRITICISM OF CONDITION HUMAN RIGHTS IN ROK.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
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**TAGS:** PFOR, MASS, KS, US  
**To:** STATE  
**Type:** TE  
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